

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 090038

21

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 /017 R

66623

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:D WOODALL

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:R. ELTZ

----- 006068

O 021115Z MAY 74 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090038

TOSEC 142

REF: ALEXANDRIA 066

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED MAY 2, 1974
SENT ACTIONANKARA INFO ALEXANDRIA, ISLAMABAD, LONDON, TEHRAN
IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090038

TOSEC 142, ZFF ALEXANDRIA ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO

SUBJECT: UK INTEREST IN USG VIEWS ON CENTO

ALEXANDRIA FOR SISCO AND ATHERTON

1. UK HEAD OF CHANCERY GRAHAM CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY SOBER TO DISCUSS PLANNING FOR MAY 21-22 CENTO
MINISTERIAL MEETING. GRAHAM ASKED IF SECRETARY HAD ANY
SPECIFICS IN MIND WHEN HE TOLD CENTO SYG ASSAR DURING
MARCH 11 LUNCHEON THAT CENTO SHOULD BE QUOTE BEEFED
UP. END QUOTE GRAHAM SAID IDEA THAT USG MIGHT TAKE INITIA-
TIVES TO STRENGTHEN CENTO QUOTE HAD RUNG ALARM BELLS IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 090038

LONDON. END QUOTE FOR EXAMPLE, IT MIGHT CREATE REGIONAL

EXPECTATIONS THAT CENTO COULD BECOME INVOLVED IN INTRA-REGIONAL DISPUTES. SOBER REPLIED THAT HIS RECOLLECTION OF SECRETARY'S REMARK TO ASSAR WAS THAT CENTO IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN BEFORE AND THAT CENTO MEMBERS SHOULD BE LOOKING AHEAD TO WHAT CENTO SHOULD BE OVER NEXT FIVE OR TEN YEARS. SECRETARY HAD NOT MADE SPECIFIC ACTION PROPOSALS. USG IS WELL AWARE OF LONG-STANDING PROBLEM OF CENTO'S RELEVANCE TO INTRA-REGIONAL DISPUTES. SOBER NOTED THAT OUR BASIC POSITION REGARDING PAPER ON POLITICAL GUIDANCE TO CENTO MILITARY COMMITTEE NOW BEING DRAFTED IN ANKARA IS THAT IT IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR CENTO TO ENGAGE IN PLANNING FOR INTRA-REGIONAL DISPUTES. SOBER REMARKED THAT US AND UK REPS HAVE WORKED TOGETHER CLOSELY ON PAPER.

GRAHAM RESPONDED QUOTE OUR VIEWS ON THIS QUESTION CONTINUE TO BE VERY SIMILAR. END QUOTE

2. SOBER COMMENTED THAT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS IN WHICH CENTO MIGHT BE MORE ACTIVE, E.G., IN COUNTER-SUBVERSION OR ECONOMIC INITIATIVES. GRAHAM ASKED IF CHANGED ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT IN MIDDLE EAST HAD AFFECTED CENTO'S ECONOMIC POSSIBILITIES. WOULD USG CONTRIBUTE TO PROJECTS IN IRAN, FOR EXAMPLE? IS SHAH STILL INTERESTED IN CENTO? SOBER REPLIED THAT US ECONOMIC ALLOCATIONS TO CENTO ARE EAR-MARKED FOR REGIONAL PROGRAMS, NOT FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS.

WE NOT AWARE OF ANY DECREASED IRANIAN INTEREST IN CENTO IN RECENT MONTHS. IN FACT, IRANIAN DELEGATE TO LAST ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING IN ANKARA HAD INDICATED THEY WOULD CONSTRUCT RAIL LINK TO COMPLETE CENTO RAILROAD TO PAKISTAN AT COST OF DOLS 100 MILLION.

3. GRAHAM COMMENTED THAT HMG'S CURRENT REVIEW OF UK DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS AND COSTS INCLUDES CENTO-COMMITTED BOMBER FORCE ON CYPRUS. HE BELIEVES REVIEW WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO MINISTERIAL.

4. GRAHAM CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT CENTO HAS TWO PRINCIPAL VALUES TO UK: QUOTE (A) CENTO AIR BRIDGE END QUOTE OVER IRAN WHICH GIVES MILITARY AIR ACCESS TO GULF AND BEYOND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 090038

AND, (B) POINT OF COMMON INTEREST WITH SHAH THROUGH JOINT ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES.

5. GRAHAM AND SOBER AGREED THAT CENTO CONTINUES SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE AT RATHER LOW COST, AS ONE MANIFESTATION OF OUR CONCERN FOR SECURITY AND WELL-BEING OF THE REGIONAL MEMBERS. AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IS VIEW OF THE REGIONALS AS TO CENTO'S VALUE TO THEM.

6. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION GRAHAM REMARKED FONSEC
CALLAGHAN INTENDS TO HEAD UK DELEGATION AND THAT HE LOOKS
FORWARD TO BILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH SECRETARY AT SOME
TIME DURING MEETING. RUSH UNQUOTE RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE090038
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:D WOODALL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740104-1101
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740579/aaaactbm.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <17 JAN 2003 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK INTEREST IN USG VIEWS ON CENTO ALEXANDRIA FOR SISCO AND ATHERTON
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, CENTO, (GRAHAM), (SOBER)
To: ANKARA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005